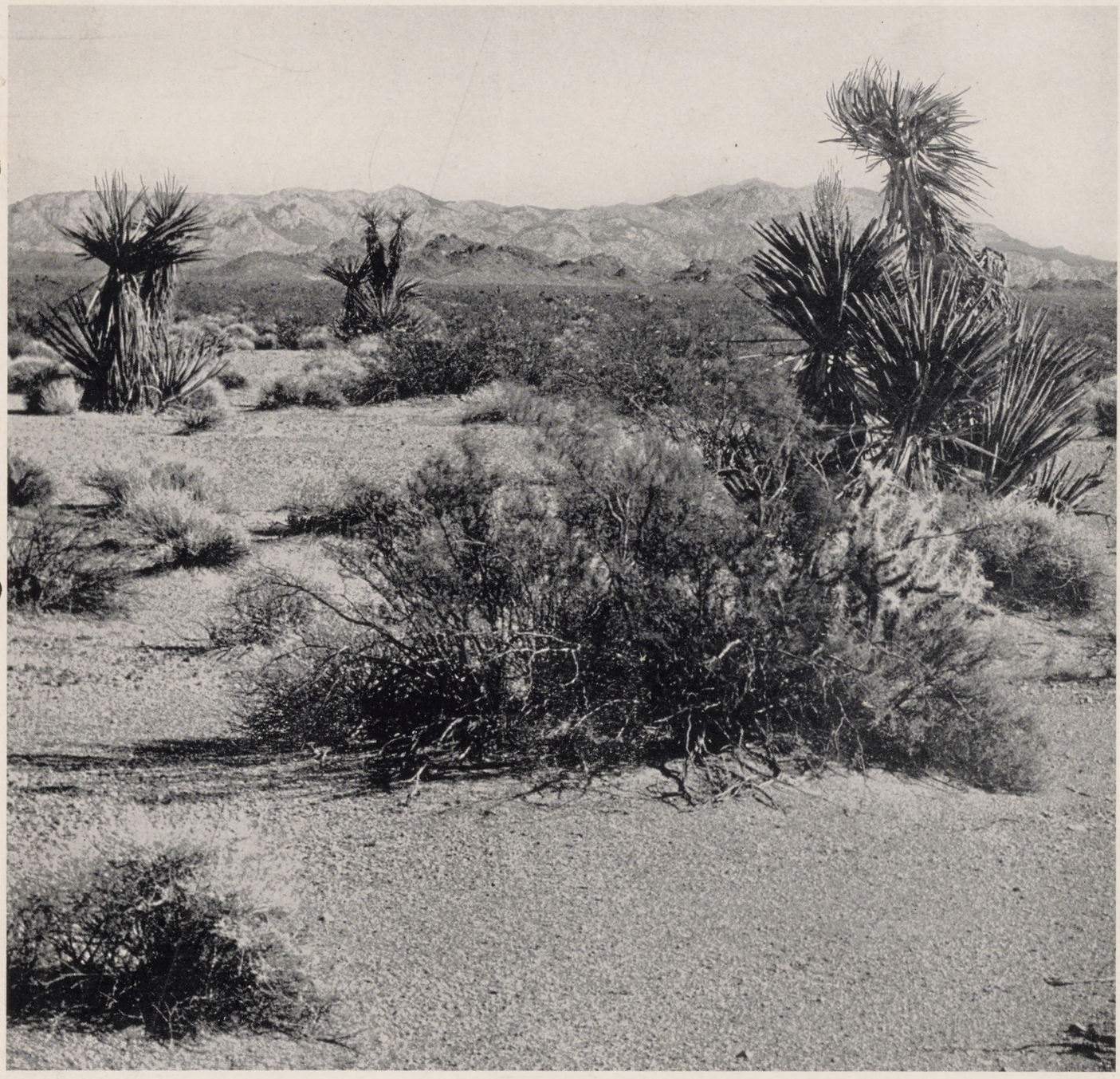
• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. VIII DECEMBER 30, 1941 No. 12



Across these Silent Wastelands, Desolate and Remote, Courses through the Canals and Hidden Conduits of the Colorado River Aqueduct a Flood of Life Giving Water to Sustain and Protect a People of Vision and Courage.

· COLORADO RIVER ·
AQUEDUCT NEWS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
306 WEST THIRD ST.
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

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No Free Rides

We are at War.

We are in a war that we have not sought. We are in a war that we have earnestly attempted to prevent—by every effort of true peace—by every act of reasonable appeasement.

We have been living in the midst of a world where savage, greedy, brutal brigands are prowling and pillaging on land and sea, trampling free men and free institutions under their bloody boots. And we have wrapped ourselves in the false security of two ocean frontiers.

Now, painfully, incredulously, our stubborn ears are pierced by the voices of three thousand American soldiers and sailors who—at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941—gave their lives for us. From the jungles and the bullet blistered hills of the Philippine Islands we have heard the heroic voices of our men fighting and retreating before a treacherous foe—because the richest, the most productive, the greatest industrial nation in the world had not given them the tools of war adequate to meet and repulse such an invader.

The message of these American martyrs is one which may not square with our long cherished economic and political theories and prejudices. It is one which obliterates our complacent plans of easy peace-time plenty. But it is a message which we must heed—or perish.

The hand of destiny has placed the people of the Coastal Plain of Southern California on a decisive sector of America's fighting front. Here on the embattled ramparts of our country we must make available in abundant and unfailing quantities the necessities of life for our industries and fighting men assembled in these parts to defend our people against a ruthless enemy. Here we must meet our common obligations on the honest and honorable basis of share and share alike.

There are no free rides on the blood drenched road to Victory.

Users of Soft Aqueduct Water Enjoy Large Savings in Soap and Other Costs

Citizens of the thirteen cities comprising the Metropolitan Water District, as well as many who reside in areas where Colorado River Aqueduct water is not yet available, are becoming increasingly aware of the important benefits of the District's soft and filtered water supply.

Water being delivered to District cities is first passed through the modern Softening and Filtration Plant which operates as a part of the Aqueduct's distribution system. In this plant the water is filtered crystal clear and is thus made ideally suited for cooking and drinking purposes. In addition, the water is softened to a degree of less than 100 parts of hardness per million. The marked benefit of this soft water supply is apparent when it is pointed out that in many sections the local water supplies have a degree of hardness amounting to 300 parts, or more, per million.

One of the most obvious household benefits of soft and filtered Aqueduct water is the saving in soap costs realized by a family which formerly had been using a harder water. A family which changes from a water supply having a hardness of 300 parts per million to the soft Aqueduct water is thus getting the benefit of a water only one-third as hard. By actual tests it has been demonstrated that the soft Aqueduct water thus requires only one-third as much soap for washing, bathing and laundry purposes.

On the basis of careful studies made by the American Water Works Association, it is revealed that a family of four will save at least $7.20 per year in soap costs alone by using the soft Aqueduct water as compared to a water with a hardness of 300 parts per million. This estimated saving of $7.20 per year, or 60 cents per month, it is pointed out, is most conservative since it is based upon a soap cost of only 12 cents per pound and the application of this soap to only two gallons of water per day per person. In other words, the estimate of soap saving is not figured on the water used for lawn irrigation and toilet flushing, or even upon the greater part of the water actually used in the bathtub, shower, sink or laundry. It is based only upon the small portion of water used to make lather or suds. But even as applied to the small quantity of two gallons of water per person per day, and on the very low basis of a soap cost of 12 cents per pound, the saving, as pointed out, amounts, for an average family of four, to $7.20 per year.

This saving in soap costs results from the fact that the minerals which make water hard also prevent or retard the water from lathering or making a suds which is essential for cleaning. In hard water the soap must first actually neutralize these hardening agents—in other words, soften the water—before it will form a lather or suds. That is why hard water requires more soap than soft water, and the harder the water the more soap it requires.

– DIRECTORY –

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Franklin Thomas, Vice-Chairman
E. P. Hapgood, Secretary

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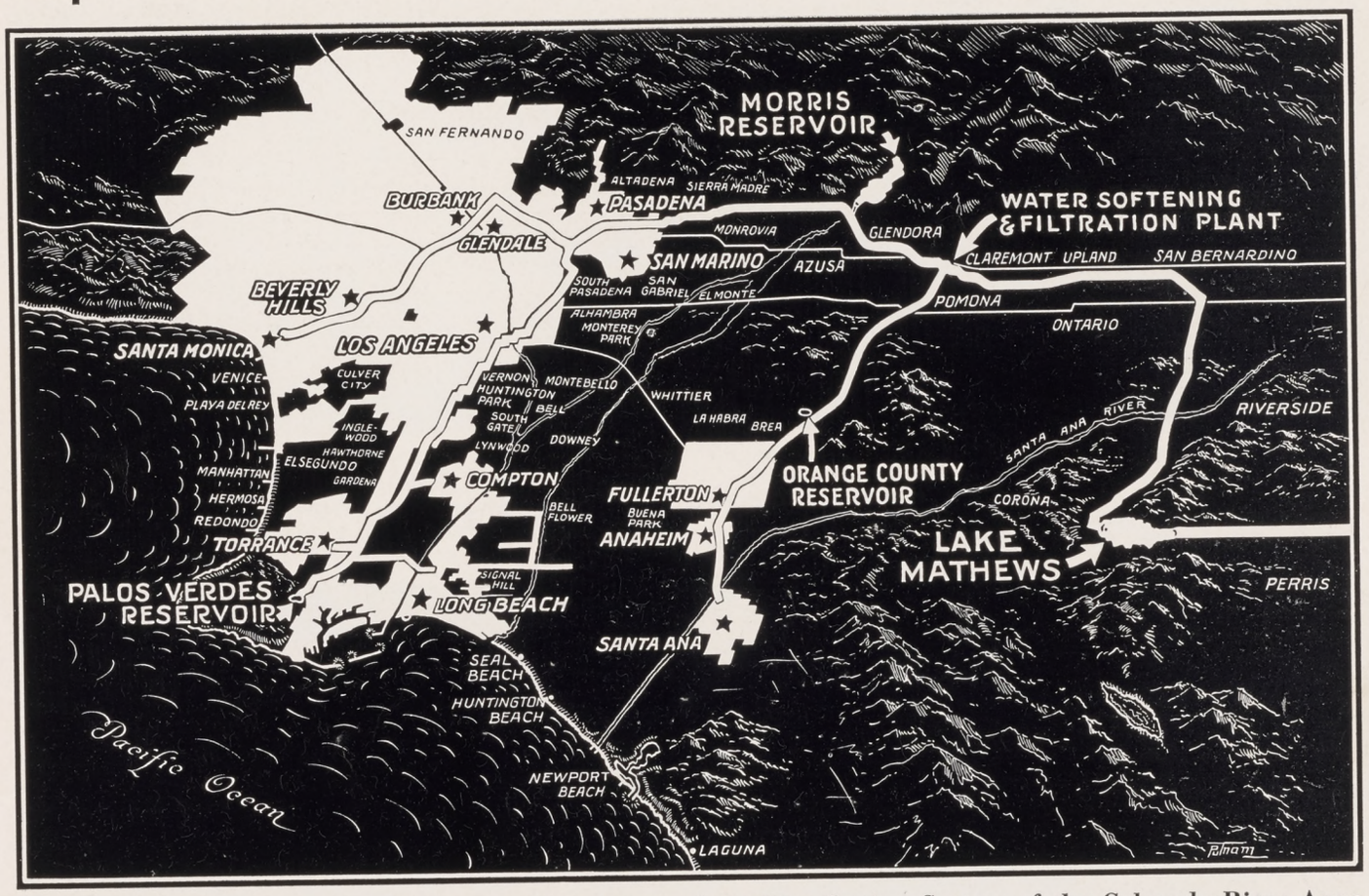
Maintenance Engineer, Aqueduct and Transmission Lines	Robt. N. Allen
Softening Plant Engineer	W. W. Aultman

Aqueduct Renders Vital Service on War Front



Here in decisive black and white is a graphic picture of the Distribution System of the Colorado River Aqueduct and the manner in which it serves to sustain and protect the people, the war industries and the military establishments situated within the 610 square miles of the thirteen cities which comprise The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Note the strategic location of the four close-in Aqueduct reservoirs with their billions of gallons of water constantly ready for use. Distribution lines, reservoirs and areas of the District cities are shown in white.

A Statement By Chairman W. P. Whitsett

Of basic and vital importance to a people at war is that every day necessity of life—water.

And in the firm possession of an abundant and dependable supply of water are the thirteen cities which comprise The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The ample and constantly available water resources of these thirteen cities are of far more than local significance. These water resources now constitute a condition of defense and war preparedness benefiting the entire nation. This is true because today these thirteen Southern California cities are the heart and center of America's continental military and naval establishments. At the same time, they are in effect a mighty and ever expanding workshop engaged in the task of forging indispensable fighting tools for America.

Possession of this fundamental necessity of water is not a natural heritage of these cities which have been builded in the semi-arid southwest corner of the United States. Only by the civic vision and courage of the citizenry of these communities and by the skill and labor of a peace-time army of engineers and workmen has this timely and dependable supply of water been made available for our people and our country's fighting forces.

More than eighteen years ago the far-sighted leaders of the communities which now constitute the Metropolitan Water District recognized the need for the development of a large additional supply of water from the distant Colorado River. In the summer of 1941, after almost a score of years of planning and building, the Colorado River Aqueduct was completed and placed in operation.

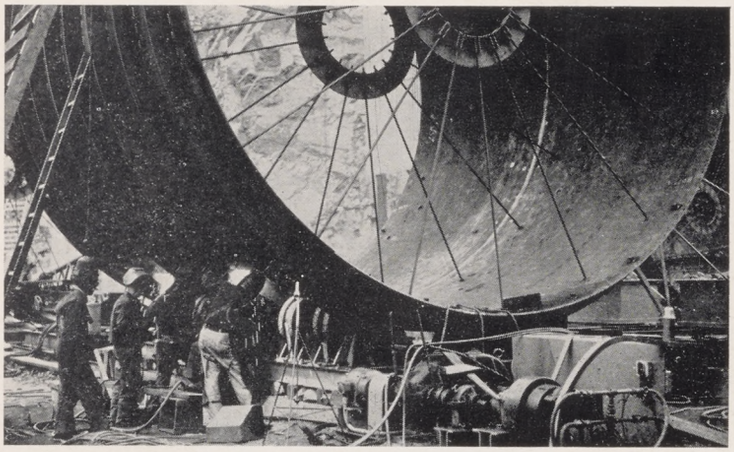
The thirteen cities comprising the Metropolitan Water District are Anaheim, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Compton, Fullerton, Glendale, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Pasadena, San Marino, Santa Ana, Santa Monica and Torrance.

On America's Fighting Front

When America, a little more than a year ago, began seriously to gird herself for the enormous task of national defense, the cities of the District were ready to provide in this normally semi-arid region the water supplies required to support and protect great new industrial plants and military establishments. As the nation now finds itself at war, and expending every effort to preserve the life and liberty of our people, this condition of water supply preparedness takes on first ranking military and economic value. For Fate has placed these thirteen Southern California cities on

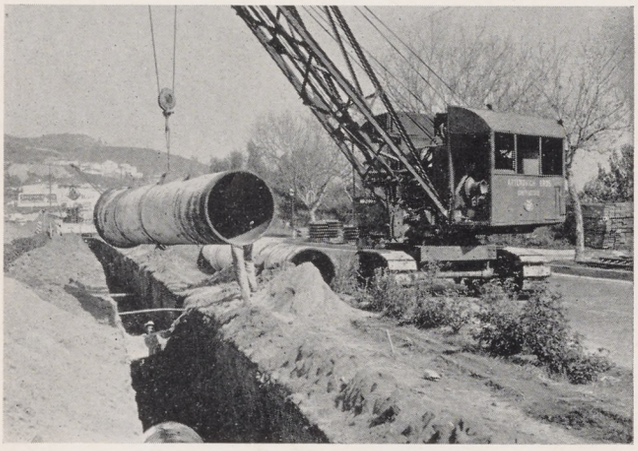
(*Continued on Page* 6)

THE MARCH OF TIME A

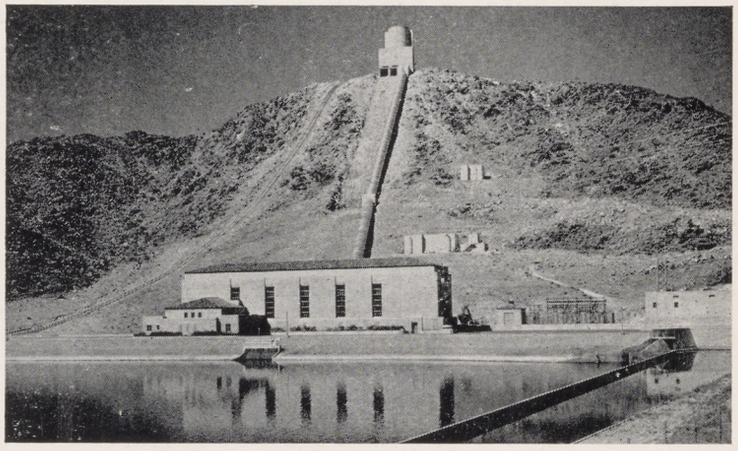


Parker Dam Power Plant was underway at the beginning of 1941. Here workmen were preparing to move into place a steel liner for one of the penstock tunnels. Work on the plant is still underway.

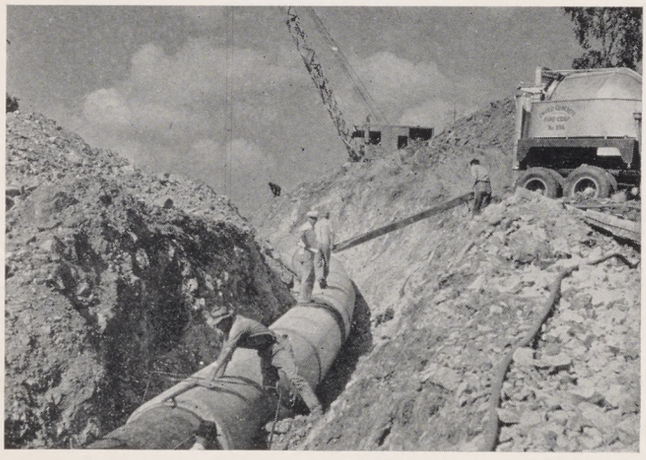
In the Hollywood Tunnel, a link in the distribution line between Burbank and Santa Monica, workmen early in the year were bringing to completion the last and most westerly tunnel on the Aqueduct.



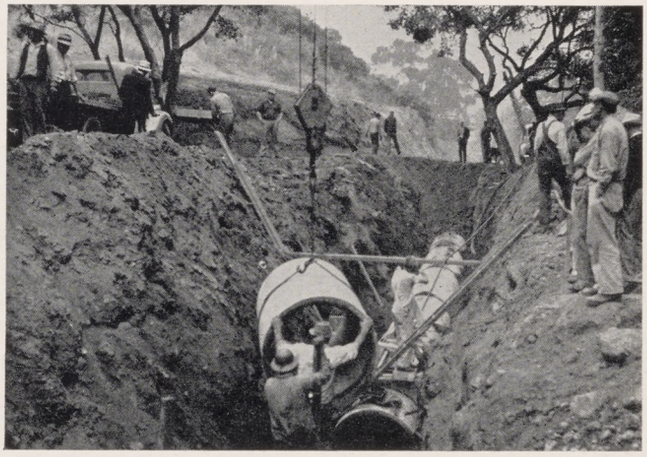
On Sunset Boulevard in these same early months, contractor crews were lowering into place the pipe line now delivering soft and filtered Aqueduct water to Beverly Hills and Santa Monica.



While far out on the desert, the Eagle Mountain pumping plant, in concert with the other four pumping stations, was sending westward life-giving water for reserve storage in Lake Mathews.



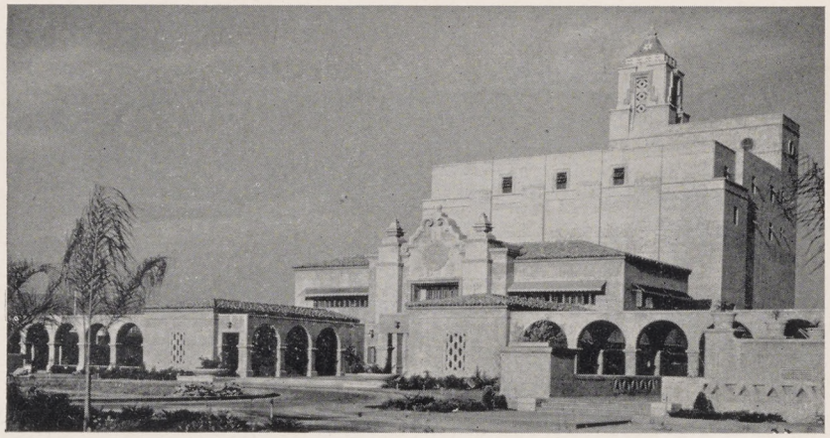
During the second quarter of the year, across the hills in northern Orange County, there was being completed the distribution line which now serves Fullerton, Anaheim and Santa Ana.



In early June, contract crews lowered into place the last pipe section on the line between Burbank and the Hollywood Tunnel, thus completing the upper feeder on the distribution system.

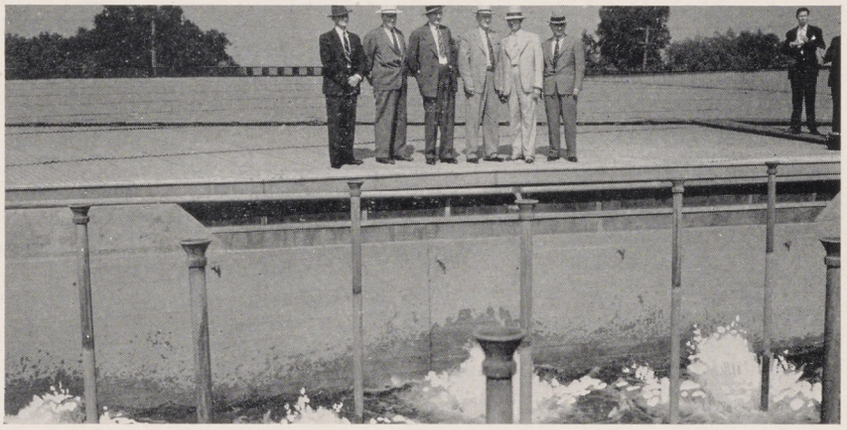
ALONG THE AQUEDUCT

Two months before he was called by death on July 22, General Manager F. E. Weymouth looked out over the water flowing into the Eagle Mountain pumping plant reservoir while making what was to be his final Aqueduct inspection trip.

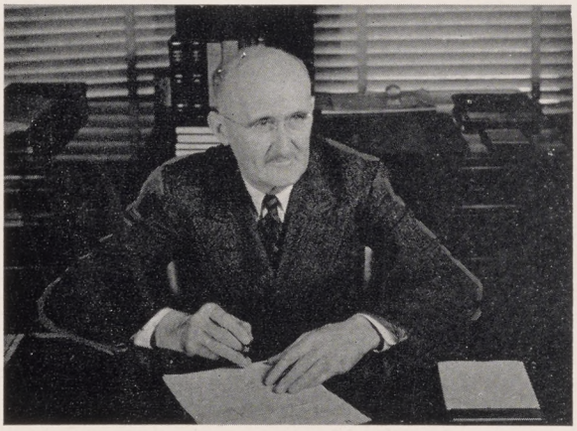


By the middle of June, after months of careful testing, the Softening and Filtration Plant stood ready to turn into the Aqueduct distribution lines a soft and crystal clear water supply of highest quality, a service now available to District cities.

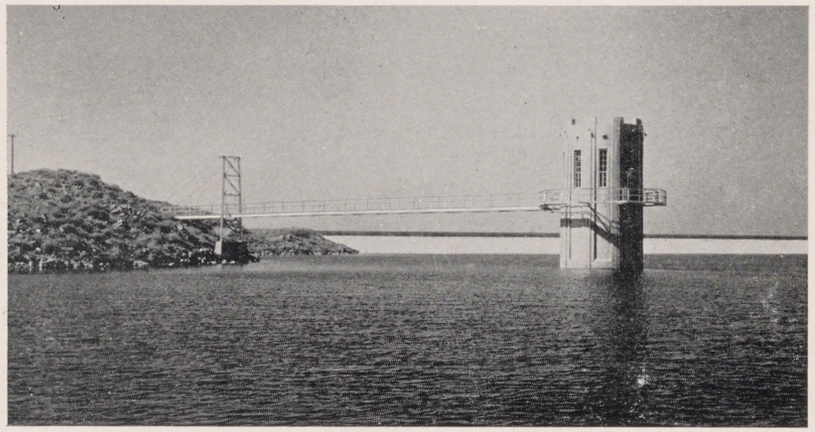
Out at the Softening Plant on the night of June 15, Board Chairman W. P. Whitsett (at left) and Chet Huntley of C.B.S. were among those who told radio listeners that the Aqueduct was ready to start to work, after years of planning and building.



On June 17, the first Aqueduct water to be delivered to a District city flowed into Pasadena's Sunset Reservoir, with Director Franklin Thomas, Distribution Engineer R. B. Diemer, and Pasadena City officials witnessing the historic event.



On August 1, the Aqueduct system officially went on an operating basis. Julian Hinds, nationally known engineering authority and formerly the District's Assistant Chief Engineer, became its new General Manager and Chief Engineer.



As the end of the year found the United States at war, the Aqueduct was completed and in service, with billions of gallons of water stored in Lake Mathews ready to sustain and protect the homes, industries and war efforts of District cities.

On War Front

(*Continued from Page 3*)

America's fighting front. And they are ready and prepared to do their job.

The map which appears on page 3 indicates clearly the thirteen District cities, and in white are shown the areas covered by these cities. In addition to the areas of the District itself, the State law governing the District authorizes the service of Colorado River Aqueduct water to Federal and State establishments within the zone of Aqueduct service. Already this water service is being made available to March Field and Camp Haan.

Multiple Water Sources

From the standpoint of war production and defense, the thirteen District cities are no longer in the precarious condition of "carrying all their eggs in one basket" so far as their water resources are concerned. This is because the Colorado River Aqueduct has given all of these communities the tremendous advantage of having multiple sources of water supply.

These resources include:

1. **Local Underground Water Basins.** Generally speaking, it has been necessary to augment and in some instances replace these underground water supplies because in past years they have been heavily overdrawn. That is why the Aqueduct was built. But in almost all cases underground supplies remain available to meet conditions of emergency and of temporary duration. Furthermore, the present availability of the Aqueduct supply now offers the opportunity to relieve the draft on these local underground reservoirs, and thus enable them once more to recapture additional reserve supplies.

2. **The Owens River Aqueduct,** which serves Los Angeles exclusively. This aqueduct system, owned by the City of Los Angeles and delivering water to consumers within that city, has its source in the snow waters from the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, 300 miles north of the city.

3. **The Colorado River Aqueduct,** with its intake on the Colorado River 300 miles to the east of Los Angeles and neighboring cities, and with its distribution system available to give abundant water service to all of the thirteen District cities. This giant Aqueduct draws its water supplies from the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains, a vast area of 245,000 square miles. Its source is far removed from both the local underground basins of Southern California and the Sierra Nevada sources of the Owens River Aqueduct. Thus, there is provided practically complete protection against a condition of drought which might affect local basins or even the snow crop on the High Sierras.

Storage Gives Protection

With the hazards of war now confronting the people of the Coastal Plain of Southern California, another one of the vital advantages enjoyed by the communities of the Metropolitan Water District is that of having a vast quantity of water actually in storage near at hand and available for instant and continuous delivery under pressure. Functioning as important operating features of the Aqueduct's distribution system are four reservoirs. Largest of these is Lake Mathews, situated ten miles southwest of Riverside, and now holding in storage approximately 85,000 acre feet, or 28 billion gallons of water. Next in size is Morris Reservoir which now impounds about 30,000 acre feet, or 10 billion gallons. The vital importance of these two great stores of water reserves is apparent when it is pointed out that together they now hold, without being replenished, sufficient water to meet all of the normal needs of the thirteen District cities for a period of more than five months, even though all other water supply sources in the thirteen cities were to be cut off.

Water stored in Lake Mathews and Morris Reservoir is delivered to the District cities by gravity and under pressure. Thus, even an interruption in power service in Southern California would not cut off this supply. The same, of course, is true of the Owens River Aqueduct and the reservoirs on that supply system.

Of prime importance to the protection of the Los Angeles Harbor area, Long Beach, Torrance and Compton, is the Palos Verdes Reservoir on the Colorado River Aqueduct system. This reservoir has the capacity to store 1000 acre feet, or 326,000,000 gallons of water, enough to provide invaluable fire protection to the nearby District areas in the event of a major conflagration.

Over in the hills of northern Orange County is the Orange County Reservoir, acting as a storage and regulating basin of the Aqueduct line serving Fullerton, Anaheim and Santa Ana. This reservoir alone, with its capacity of 200 acre feet, or 65,000,000 gallons, would supply, without being replenished, all of the normal water needs of these three communities for a period of ten days.

Vast Water Reserves

And then, of course, behind the storage capacity of the various Colorado River Aqueduct reservoirs, there is the huge water supply line itself. With its intake on the Colorado River, the Aqueduct draws upon the well nigh inexhaustible water reserves stored in Lake Havasu back of Parker Dam and in Lake Mead back of Boulder Dam. And above these two mammoth storage basins lie the 245,000 square miles of snow-blanketed Rockies draining into the Colorado River.

The Colorado River Aqueduct now is able to deliver 600 second feet of water into Lake Mathews. That means a steady stream of water flowing at the rate of 600 cubic feet per second—enough water to meet the normal requirements of more than 2,000,000 persons. Ultimately, the Aqueduct will have a capacity of 1500 second feet, or approximately a billion gallons daily.

Such are the multiple water sources and systems now available day and night to sustain and protect the vital theatre of war operations situated within the boundaries of the thirteen cities of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

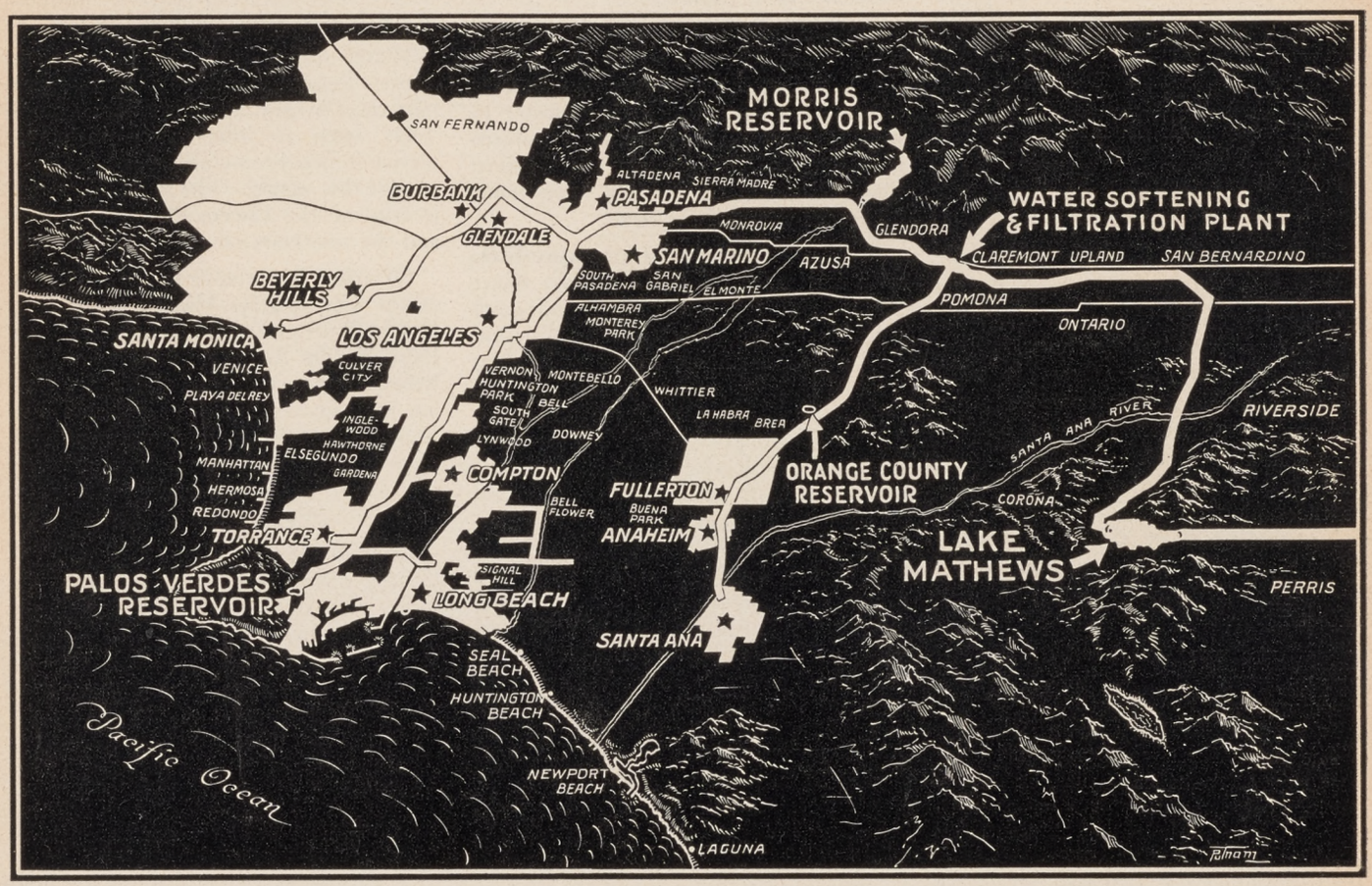
Guarding Billions in Values

The combined areas of the cities of the Metropolitan Water District amount to approximately 390,000 acres, or about 610 square miles. The present assessed valuation of property within these cities is $1,900,000,000. Added to this, there is about $600,000,000 in City, County, State, Federal and veteran-owned property exempted from taxation. All of this property, with a combined assessed and non-assessed valuation of $2,500,000,000, is supported and protected by the ample and permanent water supply provided by the Colorado River Aqueduct.

It is not by accident or through sheer coincidence that great aircraft and shipbuilding plants and their surrounding worker communities have been located within such Metropolitan Water District cities as Burbank, Santa Monica, Torrance, Long Beach, Glendale, Compton and Los Angeles, including the Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor area.

Located within the Los Angeles and Orange County metropolitan area, there are a number of communities not now within the Metropolitan Water District. Most of these areas are physically situated within reach of Aqueduct water service, and this service will be extended to all communities which may later be annexed to the District and thus assume, along with the present thirteen cities, a fair share of the Aqueduct costs, as well as secure the permanent assurance of an abundant water supply.

Vital War Service Rendered by Colorado River Aqueduct



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A Statement by Chairman W. P. Whitsett, Board of Directors, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Board of Directors and District Cities

W. P. Whitsett, *Chairman*

Franklin Thomas, *Vice-Chairman* E. P. Hapgood, *Secretary*

Anaheim	E. P. Hapgood
Beverly Hills	Arthur Taylor
Burbank	James L. Norwood
Compton	Warren W. Butler
Fullerton	Walter Humphreys
Glendale	Herman Nelson
Long Beach	William M. Cook
Los Angeles	Otto J. Emme
Los Angeles	Perry H. Greer
Los Angeles	Joseph Jensen
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Julian Hinds, *General Manager and Chief Engineer*

James H. Howard, *General Counsel* J. M. Luney, *Controller*

Ira R. Pontius, *Treasurer*

J. M. Gaylord,
Chief Electrical Engineer

R. B. Diemer,
Chief Operation and Maintenance Engineer

Headquarters, 306 West Third Street, Los Angeles, California
January, 1942

• MONTHLY REPORT •

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds, filed with the Board of Directors in December covering work done in November.

Construction

Distribution System — The operator's cottage at Morris Reservoir was completed by John C. Blystone. All approved Aqueduct work, under contract, has been completed. Installation of a meter and other equipment in the chlorination station at Morris Dam was completed by District forces as well as repairs to conduit and tunnels. Pressure recording gages and sump pumps were installed at several structures along the distribution lines.

Surveys—Alternate alignments for the lower end of the Orange County feeder extension were made by a field party, while in the office comparative cost estimates of alternative lines were made for the northerly part of the line.

Parker Power Plant—Bureau of Reclamation forces continued placing concrete in the control bay and building superstructure and in the intake structure in the forebay. Walls in the north half of the superstructure are at roof level. The switchyard area has been partially excavated and some concrete footings poured.

Operation and Maintenance

General—Negotiations for the sale of the District's surplus power were continued throughout the month. Morrison-Knudsen Company, contractor for the United States on construction of the Camp Haan water supply line, started work and progressed very satisfactorily during the month. A sharp earthquake on November 14 caused considerable property damage in Torrance, Gardena and Wilmington but no damage was apparent in any of the District pipe lines and structures in that area. Problems of location of routes, elevations and line capacity to serve the Coastal Municipal Water District were discussed at a meeting on November 24.

Design—The necessity of relocating a portion of the Long Beach lateral, to accommodate the installation of a larger capacity culvert at the 223rd Street crossing of the Nigger Slough flood control channel, has been avoided due to revised plans of the County Flood Control and County Road authorities. Details for alterations in operating equipment at the softening plant and on pipe lines were prepared.

Parker Dam—Bureau of Reclamation forces completed all repairs to spillway gates and they are now being sandblasted and painted. The water surface elevation in Lake Havasu varied from 436.5 to 437.3.

Main Aqueduct—Normal patrol of the aqueduct, transmission line and telephone line was maintained. Telephone poles damaged by lightning were replaced. Patrol roads were repaired and sand traps completely cleaned. Parallel drains along canal sections were cleaned and deepened. Repairs and overhaul of the three maintenance tractors were being made.

Pumping Plants — Routine maintenance of camps, roads and plant equipment was continued and pumping was resumed at Intake to fill Gene Reservoir in preparation for pumping at all plants during December.

Distribution System — On November 30 storage in Lake Mathews was 85,374 acre feet as compared with 86,899 acre feet on October 31. At the softening plant the hardness of the water was reduced from 366 to about 100 p.p.m. Regular inspections were made of structures, valves and surface conditions on the distribution system. Routine sampling and analyses of water were continued.

Hydrographic—Preparatory to a hearing called for January, 1942, in Phoenix, Arizona, meetings of the Colorado River Board of California and committees were attended. The hearing is relative to Arizona's application for a permit for the Bridge Canyon damsite above Lake Mead on the Colorado River.

Employment — During November, 4 classified positions were filled. Thirteen terminations, 1 change of status and 74 interviews were recorded. The net turnover for all positions for October, 1941, was 1.25 per cent compared with 2.53 per cent for the same period in 1940.

Right of Way — During November, 2250 boxes of Valencia oranges were picked which completed this season's crop. Preparations were made for smudging, if necessary; trees were sprayed and the fifth irrigation of the season was started.

Purchasing and Salvage — Total expenditures covering 203 purchase orders issued during the month approximated $7,667.00. Cash sales during November amounted to $16,962.43 making the total salvage disbursements to date, $1,692,703.62. The appraised value of salvage stock on hand to November 30 was $529,361.61.

Added Protection Given Water System

As a necessary precaution in the wartime protection of the Aqueduct system, the entire right of way and all of the operating features of this water supply system have been closed to visitors for the duration of the national emergency.

Included in the Aqueduct structures which have been closed to visitors and sightseeing parties are the five pumping plants and the Softening and Filtration Plant. Likewise, the fenced areas and the highway approaches to Lake Mathews and Morris Reservoir have been closed, and visitors are not permitted entrance into these zones. All other fenced areas, including the Palos Verdes and Orange County reservoirs, have been closed.

Into all of these Aqueduct closed areas the only persons now permitted entrance are those engaged in Aqueduct work, inspection, patrol or guard duties. All such persons are provided with identification cards and passes issued by the General Manager and Chief Engineer.

For the past 18 months the Aqueduct pumping plants have been closed to all visitors except those who had made application through the office of the General Manager and Chief Engineer and had been issued passes good only for limited periods. However, since December 7, the issuance of visitor passes giving sightseers admission to the pumping plants has been discontinued. Up to the time of America's entrance into war, the Softening and Filtration Plant and the observation points overlooking Lake Mathews were being visited by thousands of citizens and tourists each month. The District welcomed these visitors and sought to make available to them full information relating to the particular zones being inspected as well as the entire Aqueduct system.

Since December 7 extraordinary steps have been taken to safeguard vulnerable Aqueduct structures by increased guard and patrol service and by other prudent measures. It was in conformity with the requirements of these precautionary steps that it was necessary to close all operating units of the Aqueduct to visitors.

Similar measures designed to safeguard Parker Dam, Parker Dam power plant, and that portion of the reservoir in the vicinity of the dam have been made effective by the Federal Government. This entire zone has been declared a closed area.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Starting with the District in 1935 as a Miner Chucktender on the Coachella tunnels and then moving along in '36 as a Chainman, in '37 as an office man, in '40 as a pumping plant operator, Jack R. Bickford is now Field Clerk at the Aqueduct's Division 2 (Iron Mountain pumping plant).

Gathering around a long festive board set up on the afternoon of December 24 in the office of accommodating Chief Electrical Engineer J. M. Gaylord, the Los Angeles employees of the District celebrated the Yuletide in the good old-fashioned manner. Luncheon was provided by the Employees Association and arrangements were ably handled by a committee headed by Dolores Sholz and including Edith Mallery, Ethel Lockhart, Thelma Odell, Margaret Swank and Paul Winn. Carried away by the proddings, the example and the leadership of General Counsel Howard, the celebrants raised their voices in a program of vocal harmony that turned out to be the high spot of the day—that is except for the quantities of food and sweets consumed on the premises.

* * *

Ben F. Sciarra, who has been in the service of the District since August, 1933, first as General Clerk and later as Accountant, resigned late in December to take over new duties with the Consolidated Steel Corp. in Maywood.

* * *

Active in numerous phases of civilian war work during the hours when not engaged in their regular duties are many District employees working in and out of the Los Angeles headquarters. In the maintenance of an unfailing water supply for this area they keenly feel their vitally important responsibility.

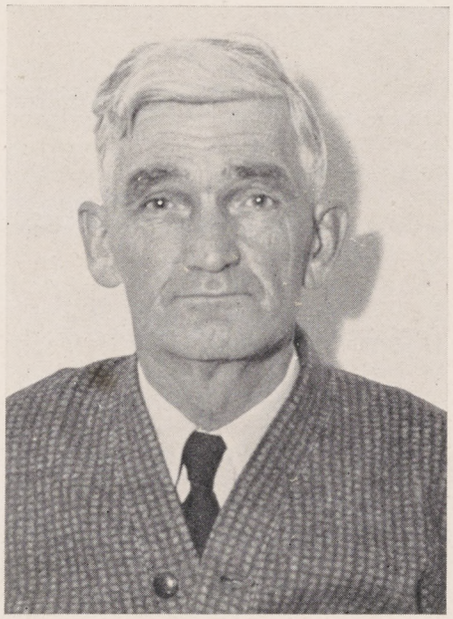
Aqueduct Temperatures
Nov. 16, 1941, to Dec. 15, 1941

	Max.	Min.
Gene Pumping Plant	85°	40°
Iron Mt. Pumping Plant	75°	38°
Eagle Mt. Pumping Plant	81°	36°
Banning	75°	31°
Lake Mathews	78°	39°

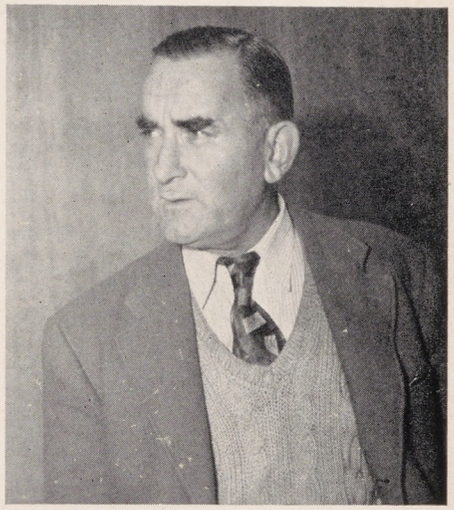
Back to the farm land of Arkansas to help produce the foodstuff for a country at war has gone Oliver P. Shoemaker, who worked on the Aqueduct construction front for about eight years. He had seen service as a Miner Chucktender in the Coachella tunnels, and in the Banning shops. More lately he had been a Maintenance Helper at Intake and Gene pumping plants.

* * *

What with regular operation duties, special guard and patrol duties and extra-special service as watchers at several air observation stations spotted out on the mountains and desert in the general vicinity of the water line, District field employees these days are stepping wide and lively.



Since 1933 just about everyone on the Main Aqueduct and the Distribution System has known, and many have worked with and under the guidance of, Joseph Gabel Brown (Joe Brown—to you old aqueducters). Serving for several years as an Inspector and Master Mechanic at the Banning Shops and on the San Jacinto tunnel, Joe is now a General Foreman on the Distribution System working under the direction of Chief Operation and Maintenance Engineer R. B. Diemer.



And here we have Eugene Lincoln (Gene) Falkenburg, Engineer and right hand man to the Field Superintendent of Pumping Plants. Since 1933 he has been with the District's Electrical-Mechanical Division and has actively participated in the designing, installation and operation of the big pumps. To countless thousands outside the District, Gene is better known as the father-husband member of the Fabulous Falkenburg family.

Among the first American citizens to stand up under the treacherous attacks of the Japs at Pearl Harbor and on our Pacific outposts were scores of former Aqueducters. After completing their work on the Aqueduct construction job, these men had gone out to Honolulu, to Midway and Wake islands and to Guam to carry forward naval defense efforts. They included civil and structural engineers, accountants, office workers and skilled craftsmen. Anxious have been the District employees to learn the fate of their old-time friends and co-workers. From last reports, it was believed that those on Midway and at Honolulu were safe. From Guam and Wake thus far had come to the District offices no authoritative word concerning those who sought so valiantly to defend these United States possessions.

* * *

Now engaged in engineering work in the Electrical Division of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation in the Denver offices is Wendal A. Morgan, who had been with the District organization since June of 1933. After serving in the field for three years, Morgan came into the Los Angeles offices of the Electrical-Mechanical Division in 1936, and was an Assistant Engineer when he resigned in December.